

4



**Moderate Date
5 Under Curl**

Obverse 4: This die appears on numbers 4-5. Stars 2 and 7 point between dentils; star 1 nearly does. A strong inner circle, free from the dentil tips, appears at K9-12, with weaker remnants elsewhere. Star 6 points at coronet tip. Date is moderately spaced. In LIBERTY the L and foot of T are low, L and Y are grossly recut at tops, IBE-T less spectacularly so. IB bases are very close, and ER bases touch. There is a heavy coronet baseline below the E, which is not broken at the topbar, and the left foot of T touches the hair below. Lowest curl is high above 5 and does NOT extend over 2. Outer star points are moderately away from the dentils, especially stars 1, 2, 11, 12. A line between the farthest points of stars 1,13 cuts the lowest curl BELOW its center. On obverse 9 this line cuts the lowest curl ABOVE its center.

Striking Variations: The only example seen as of January 2012 is from a lapped obverse die, with the lowest and back curl weaker than normal. The faint obverse cracks sometimes seen on variety 4 do not show on this coin, likely due to its well worn condition.

The CENT Book

5



**PLF C-
Recut N(T)**

Reverse E: This die appears on numbers 5-10. Key leaves point C, PC, C-, SPC. The legend is much closer to the dentils above than to the wreath below. O in OF is lightly recut at left and below. F-A are unusually close. A triangular chip appears left of the innermost leaf under D. In ONE the O tilts right, N left. The N in CENT is grossly recut, most obvious at upper right. Small center dot.

Discussion: R8+, as of January 2012 known by a single example. G(1). Published in 1883 by Frank Andrews with an extremely minimal description. Andrews' description of his 'E' and 'J' reverses are so similar that they likely both refer to the same die. I have chosen to designate that die as 'E' (its first appearance). Andrews did not own this variety, though the Blaisdell "A5" (which turned out to be variety 10) claimed to be "ex Andrews". Newcomb de-listed the variety in his 1940 work because nobody he knew had ever seen a coin to match the A5 listing. It took 128 years for the first confirmed example of A5 to be identified. Discovered by Tom Deck as an eBay cherry in December 2011.

John D. Wright

E

UPDATE

For a better example of A5, verify the moderately spaced (not wide) date with curl fully over 5, stars NOT nearly touching dentils, reverse legend almost touching dentils, PLF not quite to center of F, recut right top of N in CENT, and chip at innermost leaf under D. On a worn example, only the width and position of

the date and stars (see star 1,12 note above), and the leaf tip positions, inner recutting and chip will show. The value of a unique item can only be speculative, but with the current level of interest in large cent die varieties it should prove to be quite substantial.

